the Link

Concordia's Independent Newspaper

Tuesday, February 15, 1994 — Volume 14, Number 32

Concordia University — Montreal, Quebec

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Not worth the paper?

Some ConU degrees not equal to McGill

by Paul Hainsworth

Some Concordia graduates are realizing that their "real education" is not preparing them for the "real world." Their B.A. Major degrees in psychology and applied social science are not recognized by a Quebec government parity committee. This recognition determines both the pay scale and position of applicants being hired by certain Quebec social service agencies. Without it, Concordia grads in these programmes are considered at only slightly above the level of Quebec high school graduates, which seriously limits their potential to find jobs or to advance in position.

Margaret Cronin is a Con U graduate with a B.A. Major in Applied Social Science who works for Youth Horizons, part of the Ministry of Social Affairs. She is 4 pay echelons below the level she would be at if she had a recognized degree. She estimates that she has lost roughly $10,000 since the committee's inception in 1990. Cronin has been trying to get Concordia to respond to the issue since April 1993.

"Concordia isn't defending its degrees and isn't seeing the ramifications of not defending them," she said. "Employees who have degrees that are not recognized are not being considered for higher echelons of pay and position." There are 18 Concordia graduates in her office who are in the same predicament.

The problem is that the chief factor in determining whether a degree is recognized or not is based on the number of credits which make up a university's B.A. Major in one of the given programmes. For example, Concordia's unrecognized B.A. Major in psychology with 42 required credits is not considered equivalent to McGill's recognized B.A. Major at 60 required credits. The B.A. Major Psychology degree at Bishop's University has 48 compulsory credits and is also recognized by the parity committee, the Secrétariat des Comités Provinciaux de Formation et de Perfectionnement.

The parity committee is comprised of unions representing government social service organizations like Ville Marie, Mount Saint Patrick's, Shawbridge Youth Centre and Youth Horizons as well as their management and the Ministry of Social Affairs. There are three levels of educational background which these agencies use to determine pay scale and position of their applicants: the lowest level is a high school diploma, the middle is a B.A, Major from a university programme recognized by the committee, and the highest is a CEGEP college degree in Childcare Counselling. If a university degree is not recognized, the applicant is considered at only slightly better than the high school level.

Kuldip Thind, a childcare worker at Batshaw Family and Youth Services, graduated from Concordia 6 years ago with a B.A. Major in Psychology, but has learned that with the establishment of the parity committee in 1990, her degree is not considered to be of any significance in her workplace.

"I want to know that the piece of paper hanging on my wall is worth something in terms of an education," said Thind. "Concordia is not pushing for recognition of its degrees, and this is giving people who have graduated and those who are soon to be graduated the false impression that their degree is worth something in the workplace."

Cronin has sent a letter addressing the issue to Gale Valaskakis, Dean of Arts & Science at Concordia, but has not seen any action taken by the university. She wants Concordia to "defend their degrees. Either explain why the degrees are equivalent to other universities, or (if they aren't) notify the students that their degrees are not." She also wants the university to create some means for students who have already graduated to take extra credits at Concordia so that they will have a sufficient number to have their degrees recognized.

At a Senate meeting last Friday, Valaskakis said she was unaware of receiving any letters from Cronin or her colleagues. Bruce Smart, Registrar of Concordia, said he is waiting for a letter to arrive this week from Martin St. Onge, Secretary of Health and Social Services for the Secrétariat des Comités Provinciaux regarding the outcome of union negotiations on the issue of university degree assessment.

Additional reporting by Sarah Bowles.

1969 computer riot commemoration postponed

A speech and reception to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Sir George Williams computer riot was postponed Friday after the keynote speaker failed to get a special visa to enter Canada.

Rosie Douglas was expected to arrive in Montreal last Wednesday to mark the anniversary of the Feb. 11, 1969 arrests of 79 students protesting the university's handling of a racism charge against a professor. Douglas was one of the leaders of a two-week occupation of the Hall building computer centre.

The students were charged with setting fire to the centre, causing $5 million in damages. Douglas served 18 months in jail and was deported from Canada in 1976.

Friday would have been only the third time Douglas returned to Canada in the quarter-century since the computer riot. He came to Concordia in 1989 to talk about the computer incident on its 20th anniversary. Douglas also returned to Canada in 1983 to visit his family, but was banned from speaking publicly about the incident.

Yesterday, Douglas's son said his father's return is mired in red tape because the government and other parties involved in the computer incident do not want to reopen the case.

"They are just as frustrating now as they've been in the past. The immigration department here said Rosie would just have to go to the Canadian embassy in Trinidad to pick up his visa, but it appears that office never got the information," said Robert Douglas, a Concordia graduate and former CUSA co-president.

"I find it really incomprehensible that we never get straight information."

Rosie Douglas is now leader of the opposition Labour Party in Dominica and wanted to talk about Canadian relations with the Caribbean, he added. Douglas wants to leave the computer incident for the history books, he said.

Douglas is awaiting approval to enter Canada tomorrow. If he is granted a special visa, CUSA will sponsor an event to mark the anniversary of the 1969 computer riot this Friday.

—Debbie Hum

AGENDA

The Agenda is a free service to publicize Concordia-related events. Space priority is given to non-profit and student groups. Drop off your info at our office, room H-649 in the Hall building, or mail it, indicating AGENDA on the envelope. Deadlines are 4pm, Friday for Tuesday issues, and 4 pm Wednesday for Friday issues.

Tuesday, February 15

"The Environment and Spirituality," a screening of *Full Circle* and *Adam's World* with guest Film Director Donna Read. 4-6 pm, H-110. Information: 848-7409.

"Other voices: Films from the African Diaspora," a film festival in celebration of Black History Month. Runs from Feb. 15-27. Opening Night Benefit for AKAX and The Black Theatre Workshop, featuring *Tango Ya Ba Wendo & Blakk wi Blak...k.k.* 6:30 pm, NFB Cinema, 1564 St. Denis. Info: 283-4823.

"Rise of Neo-Nazism," a lecture by Dr. Stephen Scheinberg, presented by the Concordia Jewish Students' Union. 1 pm, P-205. Info: 848-7487.

Wednesday, February 16

"Social Policy, Collective Action and Urban Citizenship," a brown bag lecture by Sociology & Anthropology Professor Henri Lustiger-Thaler, 12 noon, 2149 MacKay, basement lounge.

"Rap, Racism & Resitance," a public meeting and discussion sponsored by the International Socialists. 7:30 pm, H-771. Info: 521-1983.

"Restoring the Public Trust: A Fresh Vision for Progressive Government," a lecture by University of Maryland School of Public Affairs Professor, Peter G. Brown. 6-8 pm, 2149 MacKay, basement.

Thursday, February 17

"The Environmental Issues and Political Strategies in Eastern Europe," a brown bag lecture by Professor Pál Támas, Director of Institute for Conflict Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences. 2:30 pm, 2149 MacKay, basement lounge.

Friday, February 18

How Do I Look Benefit, featuring Shades of Culture, Sofa, Pest & The Electric Company. 10pm, Stornoway Gallery, 1069 Bleury.For tickets & Info:l Sandra, 847-1412 or Vali, 270-8972.

GENERAL

Have you ever been refused an apartment? Project Genesis is looking for volunteers to help fight racism and discrimination in housing. Info: Denyse or Anne-Marie at 738-2036.

Concordia Queer Collective meeting schedule: First & 3rd Fridays at 5:30 pm, P-102 - General Meeting. Second & 4th Fridays, Z-105 - Discussion Group. Info: 848-7414.

Attention Native Students! Regular bi-weekly meetings of First Nations - Concordia are held at the Native Student Centre, 2110 MacKay, 3rd Floor, Fridays at 1 pm. Info: 848-7327.

Project 10 is a support group for lesbians, bi's and gays aged 14 - 25. Info: 989-1885.

Montreal Alliance of Aspiring Midwives (MAAM) welcomes enthusiastic people for group study and political action. Info: Liz, 933-1631.

Coming Out Support Group - Questioning your sexual orientation? Mutual support in a warm & friendly atmosphere. Women: Thursdays, 7 pm. Men: Wednesdays, 7 pm. MI-02 (basement), 2130 Bishop. Info: 848-7414 or 848-2859.

Multi-Faith Dialogue - Brown bag discussions designed to promote understanding between members of different religious faiths. Wednesdays at noon, T-305 (the Graduate Students' Lounge).

Services for Disabled Students: Volunteers are needed to help us deliver many of the services our students use, such as readers, tutors, and assistants. Info: H-580, 848-3525, or AD 130, 848-3536.

Ham Radio meetings: personal two-way radio,television, computers, radio BBS, satellites, shortwave, electronic projects,emergency communications. Meetings every Tuesday, 7 pm, in H-644-1. Info: 848-7474 and leave a message.

Concordia Irish Society meets every Thursday at 8 pm. Come for coffee and enjoy yourself. Office also open through the week during certain hours. 2020 MacKay, Rm 103. Info: 848-7411.

Bienvenidos Todos! Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Latin American Students Organization should contact Roberto, 848-3532, 333-1947. Hasta Pronto.

Volunteers Needed! Parenthèse is a unique playgroup for immigrant moms and their children and is looking for volunteers. Tues. or Thurs. 1-4:30 pm. Info: Cyndy, 934-0354, ext. 354.

We Are a Group of Pak-Canadian students trying to form a club for Pakistani students. If you would like to help call, Adil, 287-0774.

Tel-Aide is a 24-hour telephone listening service and crisis line seeking volunteers who are empathetic and non-judgemental. Training is provided. Info: 935-1105.

Concordia Association for Undergraduate Students of English (CAUSE) meets every Wednesday at 5 pm, 2020 MacKay, P-103.

The Indian Students' Association invites you to become a member. Trips and other social events are planned. Info: 848-3533.

The Society for Intellectual freedom invites you to join them in the pursuit of academic freedom and the promotion of free speech. Meetings Fridays at 2pm, H-539-1. Info: 933-1169.

The Sociology and Anthropology Students Association needs students to help organize events. Info: Chuck Walsh, 522-6692.

Counselling Workshops/Groups - Make this semester an opportunity for growth and change! Sign up now for groups on: coping with loss and grieving; understanding your family; assertiveness training; building positive relationships; personal empowerment and career & educational planning. For more information call Counselling & Development, 848-3545/3555.

Birth Control Workshops: Not sure what method is right for you? Explore your options in a small group setting with a health professional. Choice of dates: March 3, 17 & 31, 12 noon-1:30 pm, SGW Health Services, 2155 Guy, Rm 407. Information: 848-3565/3575.

cont'd on page 4

CLASSIFIED ADS

Rates: 20¢ per word for Concordia students (CUSA), 25¢ per word for other students and business ads. Deadlines are 4pm Friday for Tuesday issues, 5pm Wednesday for Friday issues. Come to room H-649 in the Hall building and fill out one of our painless forms. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. Ads must be accompanied by payment, or they will not run. We do NOT take classified ads by phone, fax, or mail.

TYPING

Success to all students! WordPerfect 5.1. Term papers, résumés, access forms, applications, etc. 23 years experience—both languages, 7 days a week. $1.75/double-spaced page. 2 streets away, Peel. Paulette or Roxanne, 288-9638, 288-0016.

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WP / Typing: $1.25 - $1.65/pg., LQ or Laser printer, Ville St-Laurent. 336-7142

Word Processing of term papers, reports, theses etc. WordPerfect 5.1, laser printer. 8 years experience. Fast, professional service. Good rates. Brigitte, 282-0301.

Downtown, St. Mathieu. Prof. Word Processor with writing skills. Edit English. Format all papers. Type forms. Excellent service. 933-8945.

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Typing Tom, 738-1171.

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Typing WP 5.1, $1.25/double-spaced page. Pick up/Deliver, Downtown or Loyola. 482-2816, Walter.

Dicta - wants to work at home. Call Heather @ 472-7054.

Increase Marks! Word processing, term papers, résumés, spell check, fax, translations, both languages, color printer. Fast & professional. 7 Days. $1.50/page dbl-spaced. 844-2538.

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Science and social science papers, theses typed or typeset for course assignments, journal submission or publication. Exact notation, equations, technical illustration, charts, graphs, tables. Mathematics tutoring also available. 284-0867 or 845-6701.

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APARTMENTS

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Large Fridge (Frostfree) and sofa. Call Eric: 697-8679, 938-0299.

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Ticket San Francisco. $198. Phone 367-0279 or 722-5120.

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RECREATION

Spa & Fitness vacation specialist - call Lydia at Sunshine Travel. 486-9313 or 486-6784.

Queer trip to Key West for the Spring Break! All queers interested, please contact Ricardo at CQC, 848-7414 for more info.

Daytona! 7 glorious days, 6 fun-filled nights at Howard Johnson's on the beach. $119 hotel, $259 bus & hotel. Call Kenny, 487-6585 or Heidi, 288-4974.

WANTED

Saxophone players needed for busking purposes. Reading necessary. Day 933-1882. Eve. 689-2885.

New Film Production Company looking for scripts. Any great ideas? Contact Dick and Jen Enterprises, 438 Lakeshore Rd, Beaconsfield, PQ, H9W 4H9 or fax, 695-0514.

HELP WANTED

Summer Jobs: Pripstein's Camp (Laurentians) hiring instructors: Kayaking, Waterskiing (OWSA certified), Pottery, Beadmaking/Jewllery, Gymnastics, Canoeing, Judo (black belt), Drama (musicals), Photography, Keyboardist. Send resumé to 5253 Decarie, #333, Montreal, Quebec, H3W 3C3.

Tree Planting BC, Spring '94. Bugbusters. Call Joe, 278-4645.

American Students, summer employment, entrepreneurial minds. Big $$$, Call Raff at 932-5769.

Urgently looking for sales personnel. Master School of Bartending. Good Salary, excellent commissions and weekly cash bonuses. Downtown location (near Peel Metro) Call immediately (ask to speak with Mr. Hain) Tel: 844-0640.

GENERAL

Graduate Student Get-Togethers, School of Graduate Studies. Dean Martin Kusy would like to meet with graduate students once again this year on an informal basis. "Get-Together" sessions have been arranged for this purpose, from 5:30-7:30 pm at our Graduate Administration offices, 2145 Mackay Street, on Monday, March 7, 1994. Because space is limited, please reserve one of the above dates by con- tacting Ms.Kali Sakell at 848-3803. We look forward to seeing you.

Station 10's New Monday Night Jam. All levels welcome. Drums & amps provided. 2071 St. Catherine W, 934-0484. Beer specials all night.

A Benefit for *How do I Look?* Film and Video Series at Stornoway Gallery, 1069 Bleury on Feb. 18 at 10 pm, featuring Sofa, Pest, Shades of Culture & The Electric Company. Tickets $5 advance, $7 door. For Ticket information, call Sandra, 847-1412 or Vali, 270-8972.

"Breaking Free... Celebrating our Natural Sizes!" In a warm, informal small group setting, we plan to explore a variety of issues related to body image. Tuesdays 2-4, beginning in February for 8 sessions at the YWCA. Info: Karen, 487-4767 or Elizabeth, 694-6879.

Laser for myopia for information from Past-Chair, Health and Welfare Committee. Call 514-73LASER.

Russian language newsletter. Free. To get it, call 937-8384, 989-7232.

Witamy! Become a member of the new Polish Students' Association. Info: Paulina, 744-4386.

LOST & FOUND

Three-legged orange cat, 7 yrs. old. Missing since fire at 54 Roy/St. Dominique Dec. 23/93. Any information would be appreciated. Please call 842-7509.

Advertise in the Link!

TREEPLANTERS WANTED

TSUGA FORESTRY CONTRACTORS Ltd. has summer employment opportunities for physically fit individuals who are looking for a challenge in their summer work. We are seeking to hire both experienced and inexperienced planters. The candidates must be highly self-motivated, self-disciplined people.

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Student Employment Centre on Campus Room H-662

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GRAD STUDENTS CALL FOR PAPERS
Undisciplined : an interdisciplinary journal
published by and details at the GSA,
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Deadline: March 25, 1994

Eating rights: food coop would allow choice

by Joey Goodings

Guatemala exports 40 million tons of beef to the US every year while 75% of Guatemalan children under the age of five are undernourished. Meanwhile, in the rich world, 2.5 million people a year die of heart disease and illness related to obesity.

-Excerpt from *Hungry for Justice, page 11*

Chicita bananas don't sport pesticide content labels. Del Monte doesn't wrap its fruit and vegetable cans with pictures of the exploited labourers it employs around the world. By buying such brands, shoppers contribute to environmental destruction, cheap labour exploitation and malnourishment in developing agricultural countries.

Eat Your Peel Buying Group, a sub-group of QPIRG, hopes to end this ecologicallly disastrous food chain by offering Concordia students an alternative to supermarket big-business food products.

The groop wants to begin a student-run food cooperative on campus that would only sell food products which meet a certain ethical standard. The store would provide information concerning the social and environmental impact of each product.

That high quality standard means pesticide-free, organically grown products from cooperative-oriented food suppliers in Quebec, North America or the developing world.

"We wouldn't buy something without knowing its history," said Jason Potts, a member of the EYPBG.

According to Potts, most people shop without thinking about the companies they are supporting.

"People don't want to know these things because it makes their lives too complicated, but the idea behind the coop is to make it not so complicated. You won't have to worry about it because we'll do the research," he said.

The coop would empower Concordia consumers to make their own well-informed choices.

Michelle Brooks, a Concordia history student agrees that finding out about the origins of food products can be difficult.

"Where I shop, it does not say where a product is from. Whether it is Quebec grown or not. This can be problematic," she said.

"It's hard to know what is going on in different parts of the world. Whether workers there are horribly underpaid or exposed to dangerous chemical pesticides", she added.

Concordia communications student Abby Hershler likes the idea of making a dent in the profits of big business. Thirteen food companies account for 45% of food sales in Canada.

"I want to contribute to people who deserve it, not to exploiters. A few companies have huge control over the market," she said.

"They exploit cheap labour and treat workers terribly. They don't wear proper gloves or headware. They produce crops they do not get to eat," she added.

But, for EYPBG to open a food coop on campus, it needs the approval of students. It has asked various student organizations to include a referendum question about funding a food coop in their upcoming elections.

If approved, students would pay $1.70 per semester to be members of the food coop as part of their student fees. When a student has paid a total of $10 towards the food coop, they become lifetime members. Students who do not wish to be members can have their money refunded from the accounts office.

The Commerce and Administration Students Association, the Engineering and Computer Science Association and the Graduate Students Association have all agreed to include a referendum question in their upcoming elections. CUSA is expected to do the same.

The food coop would be non-profit and food would be offered at wholesale prices. There would be two full-time and two part-time staff, all of them students, plus 40 to 50 volunteers working four hours a month to receive up to $32.00 in discounts on food. The money not used to pay staff would cover capital costs and renovations.

Perhaps the best reason for Concordia students to support the food coop is expressed by Michelle Brooks.

"It will provide an alternative to Marriott."

For more information and ideas concerning responsible food shopping, see QPIRG's guide Hungry for Justice.

Additional reporting by Carol McQueen

Douglas must wait a year for his day in court

by Chris Leentjes

A year after his skirmish with Montreal police, Robert Douglas will finally be able to defend himself in court against charges of obstructing justice and assault while resisting arrest.

Douglas, a former CUSA co-president, was charged last October with the criminal offences after an incident at the Côte-des-Neiges Black Community Centre.

At his preliminary hearing in municipal court yesterday, Douglas pleaded not guilty to both counts and had his trial date set for October 18, 1994.

He said that he is standing up to the charges on principle, and insisted that it was in fact the police who did the assaulting, not him.

At yesterday's hearing, the prosecutor announced that he has seven witnesses in the case against Douglas. Marc Cigana, his lawyer, believes these to be the police officers who accosted Douglas. He added that he has 10 to 15 possible defence witnesses, but hopes to use the best five to six on the stand.

The large number of witnesses required that a full day be set aside for the trial, causing scheduling problems for the court officials at the hearing.

However, after yesterday's court appearance, Douglas admitted that the strength of his case may rest on a video made of the entire scuffle with the police, which, he said, proves his claims against them. Cigana hopes to view the video soon to access its usefulness.

Last October, Douglas was invited to speak on racism in Europe at a conference commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 1968 Black Writer's Congress at McGill, at the Côte-des-Neiges Black Community Centre.

The MUC police appeared at the centre after a caller reported a robbery in progress there. The police were met by two community leaders, who were then searched and held at gun-point by the MUC officers.

Douglas said a skirmish erupted after he and others came to their assistance and tried to explain that it was a conference, not a robbery.

During the skirmish, Douglas was pinned to the ground by seven or eight officers, and had his wrist broken (for which he still wears a wrist brace), his face bruised and his clothes torn.

The police then arrested him and charged him with the two offences. Douglas is angered by the charges and denies doing what the police claim he did.

"They charged me with assaulting police officers—I think about seven or eight of them. (These were) the ones sitting on my back, hammering my hand into the back of my ribs. I suspect those would be the ones (I supposedly assaulted)," he said sarcastically.

Surprisingly, no plea bargain was made in Douglas' case to reduce the charges in exchange for a guilty plea on a lower charge. Douglas believes this is because the police realized they were dealing with such an explosive case, and preferred to wait and see what he would do first.

Douglas is also considering a civil suit against the police in response to their wrongful actions. Defence lawyer Cigana is currently making inquiries regarding such a suit, but said that it is very expensive and would require considerable time.

"I'm not interested in any sums of money. All the black community asks, and I instructed them of this, is for an apology, that's all," said Douglas. "...My hand was injured, but I'm still walking around, I'm still alive. I'm scarred by the racism of the attack on me but I'm still alive to fight for another day."

"...it's not a matter of the money," he added, "it's a matter of the principle of apologizing for something they have done wrong."

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Corrections

Hanna Vorlicek was not credited for her work as the coordinator of the LGBQ issue (Feb. 8, 1994).

Photo credits on page 15 of the LGBQ issue were wrong. Nina Romano took the photos of KOX and G Spot.

The Link regrets the errors.

GENERAL - cont'd from pg. 2

Hey Cool People! CRSG is looking for volunteers. Drop by H-647.

Living on My Own - a program, sponsored by Head & Hands, designed to help young people living away from home for the first time. Registration begins Jan 17. Limited Enrolment. Info: Bruce, 481-0277 or 481-3643.

CJSU Welcomes students back to school. Drop by our offices at 2020 MacKay, P-203 and find out what's going on. Info: 848-7487.

The Hellenic Students Association invites you to find out about Greece, its culture & its history. Drop by H-608-1 or call 848-3529.

Witamy! Newly-formed Polish Students' Association is looking for members! Info: 744-4386.

International Socialist Students' Association meets every Wednesday at 7:30 pm in H-771. There's nothing "left" but us. Information: Deborah, 521-1983, 848-7474.

WOMEN

24 Hour Hotline & Crisis Line, Montreal Sexual Assault Centre, 934-4504.

Lesbian Mothers support group, call Deborah, 274-8995.

Self-Help/Mutual Aid Group for women with eating problems and body image issues, sponsored by the McGill Sexual Assault Centre. Info: 398-2700.

The Montréal Assault Prevention Centre offers a self-defense course called ACTION for women. Each course provides verbal and physical techniques to help women deal with any type of aggression. Info: 284-1212. For Information on courses on campus, call the Women's Centre, 848-7431.

Women's Employment Counselling at the "Y" helps women to seek employment, return to work or explore their interests and aptitudes. Eng. & Fr. Free. Info: 866-9941.

Non-Custodial Mothers - You are not alone. Part-time moms, support group for non-custodial mothers. Info: Heidi, 844-8578.

Women's Spirituality Circle meeting weekly to explore the dynamics of spirituality in our own lives. Discussions, readings, ritual, visualization, Tuesdays 11:30-1:00, Annex Z, Rm 105. Info: Daryl Ross 848-3585.

Shakti is a Women of Colour Collective embodying a Womanist direction. We are anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-classist and lesbian & bi-positive. All women of colour are invited to participate. Leave a message at 398-7432.

Résidence Project Chance. Residential program for single moms on loans and bursaries or welfare. Call Susan Cross, 934-6199.

The Women's Studies Students' Association has been resurrected. Help us become a force on campus. Tuesdays, 8 pm, basement, 2130 Bishop.

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CUSA REFERENDUM '94

On March 8 & 9, you will be asked to vote on new constitutional proposals for your student association.

Proposals will include :

- **Changes to the Co-presidential system**
- **Changes to terms of office for representatives**
- **Revision of impeachment process**

Next week the full text of a revised CUSA constitution will be printed in the student newspapers.

Coming the first week of March : campus debates on the constitution -- Schedule and locations to be announced

CUSA: Concordia University Students' Association. For more information (514) 848-7474

UNEQUAL JUSTICE

Apartheid in Canada's prisons

by Dan Robins
(the McGill Daily, CUP)

Ross Stevens is a black man who spent almost 10 years in a variety of Canadian prisons. When asked to what extent race is an issue in jail, he replied, "The maximum amount. Like on the streets of South Africa."

"It's like every day a person will call you a nigger or make a joke, put a picture of a monkey on your door, or a jungle or something," he said. "But you can't really let something like that bother you, because if they see that it gets to you then you get monkeys on your door every day."

"Loose," who has done about 20 years in Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia prisons, has a different perspective. He says most of the problems facing Canadian prisoners affect all prisoners, regardless of race.

But Loose has also had many encounters with racist inmates and guards.

"When I first went (to Dorchester, in New Brunswick), they told me, 'We don't want no niggers here,' and I said, 'I ain't going nowhere.' They can call me all the names, as long as they don't put their hands on me, then I have to defend myself."

"If you don't stand up for your rights, they'll walk all over you," he said.

An Ontario commission looking into systemic racism in the province's prisons released an interim report on Feb. 2, detailing many of these problems.

For instance, the report says prison officials control what social groups black prisoners can form, what music they can listen to, what magazines they can subscribe to and even what hair products they can have. (Believe it or not, black prisoners even have trouble getting appropriate combs.)

Policies are discriminatory, so that pregnant black prisoners aren't given the same considerations that pregnant whites are, and blacks are streamed out of prison education programs and into menial jobs.

In many prisons, these policies have gone as far as outright racial segregation. In Quebec's LeClerc prison, nine of the 12 blocks are whites-only. One "black" floor is known as "the Jungle."

"There are only certain wings where a black man can go," Stevens said. "If they just took me and put me in another wing, there's no question that I would have a fight within an hour."

This racial control makes it almost impossible for prisoners to organize against prison racism. A group in LeClerc formed the Black Inmates Fellowship Association to raise awareness of racial issues in prison. For whatever reason, those who took on leadership roles in the group were quickly transferred out of the prison or stuck in solitary.

The Ontario commission concluded that such problems could not exist without the complicity of officials high up in the prison hierarchy.

Though these officials may not be as overtly racist as prison guards (many of whom have not figured out that "nigger" is an insult), they are more often just not interested in solving the problems of people who society has already given up on.

"The administration tries to be color-blind, but that way they don't see the problems," said Marie Beemans, a member of the board of directors of the Church Council on Justice and Corrections and a 20-year prisoners' rights activist.

"They don't care," said Loose. "All they do is lock you up and make sure you do your time."

Isolation

Stevens and Loose agreed that prisons far from large cities are the worst. Often guards have no experience dealing with people of color and immigrants, and the tiny number of black people incarcerated in these areas prevents them from effectively banding together against racists.

Because of the racism and ignorance among prison authorities, support is generally geared towards white Christians. While this falls heaviest on aboriginal prisoners, it still serves to further isolate blacks from their communities (and their lawyers).

This has been especially true at the Prison for Women (P4W) in Kingston, Ontario, the only facility for federally sentenced women. Kingston is not a particularly diverse city, and prisons there are looked upon as more of an industry than a social issue. But even if there were adequate support groups in Kingston, few of the prisoners there would ever get a chance to see their families.

In April 1990, a federal task force recommended that the P4W be replaced with five regional centres and a facility specifically for native prisoners. This was meant to bring women closer to their families and communities, while also organizing the institutions in a way that recognized that women in prison are rarely a risk to society.

But Montreal didn't bid for the Quebec institution, and instead it's being built in remote Joliette—where there are no established black, immigrant or even English communities, ensuring that marginalized women will be far from support. Even worse, it's next to impossible to get to Joliette by public transit.

Prisoners' rights activist Marie Beemans argues that because the people targeted by the justice system tend to be uneducated and insecure (a large majority were physically or sexually abused as children), jamming them together in prison creates an environment ripe for racial violence.

"You've got people with less education, more insecurities, more problems. They tend not to associate on the outside, but in prison they're thrown together. If you don't get along on the outside, you can go home or go out with your friends, but not in prison," she said. "When you've got a situation like racism, it gets worse. And the guards aren't the brightest so they tend to be racist too."

Community responses

While there are government-funded programs, they tend to focus on integrating people back into society by maintaining control over them. Egien Scotland, the director for youth programming at the Montreal Black Community Centre, is trying to provide more empowerment-oriented resources.

He's writing letters to parole boards letting them know that if black prisoners are paroled early, they have a place to go for help finding housing, employment, education, and other referrals. He's presently trying to find employers willing to commit themselves to hiring black ex-cons, while also looking for funding.

But by and large, community support for both black ex-cons and prisoners has been disappointing. Beemans recalled an incident when a black inmate was beaten up by two guards in Tanguay, a Quebec provincial prison. Black community groups were reluctant to support her, said Beemans. The two guards were later suspended after sexually assaulting a white prisoner.

Stevens said the key to eliminating racism in prison is education, specifically for prison guards and staff who have no experience dealing with people of other cultures.

"I think if you could educate those people more and have them treat a racial situation with professionalism instead of saying, 'Ah, we don't want to hear it,' then it would be better," he said.

Welcome to jail
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←
Not-white prisoners
→
White prisoners
Corrections and Segregations Canada

graphic by Mark Brooker

Black Sabbath: Masters of longevity

by Sean Moore

Power. Plain and simple. Power is what went surging through the foundations of Metropolis, local night club-come-venue.on this Saturday night past. **Black Sabbath** came on strong, whipping the mixed crowd of bikers, punks, skins, yuppies, what have you, into a seething, jubilant, sweat farm. Their current line up consists of original bassist **Terry "geezer" Butler**, original guitarist **Tony Lommi**, along with **Bobby Rondinelli** (drums), **Geoff Nichols** (keybords) and vocalist **Tony Martin**. The music, as always, was intense. They really reproduce well when playing live. Dem dere guyz play some heavy shit, man! The vocals could use some weight, though (a whole lotta weight). I found this to be the overall attitude amongst the alternative/ generally cool-dude types (such as myself). Don't let that ruin your outlook on the new album though. Many people will come to embrace the high falsetto crooning of Mr. Martin. He is the perfect front man for that sorta market. Heavier than **Poison** but not as heavy as **Ozzy**, or **Lemmy**, or **Rob Zombie**...you get the picture.

Instead of exclusively pushing their new album, *Cross purposes*, they treated the fans to an anthological Sabbath presentation. What really blew me away was the fact that they did *Children of the Grave* so close to the beginning and continued to blast old favorites, from *Paranoid* to *Masters of Reality*, throughout the rest of the show. This combined with tunes from the **Dio**-days and earlier Martin days made for an excellent package, complete with the pre-requisite double encore. As far as *Cross Purposes* goes, once again, the instrumentation is fierce and raw. The song *I Witness* is a real kicker, good way to start off a new offering. The album contains ten new cuts that deal with subjects ranging from religious zealots to the situation in Ireland. At best, this album will grow on you and eventually find itself among other frequently played titles. At worst, *Cross Purposes* sounds similar to early **Judas Priest** (pre-Rob). Purdy decent stuff.

MOTORHEAD!!! Are they playing? Are they cancelled? Which is it? Oh, they played alright. Oh, they fuckin' ruled!!! Another great act that reproduces splendidly between studio and live performance. Lemmy really played the crowd well, he even said parting words "en français". First thing I felt upon entering was a sonic boom to the chest. They did all they could (aside from being the main feature) to please the audience. Grinding out all the classics, *Ace of Spades*, *Motorhead*, no monkeying around here. They came to play hard, mean fastball. No crowd teasing. They meant bid-ness (more serious than business). BLAM!BLAM!BLAM!. Short and sweet. Even though their set was too short (45 min), every song was booming. Lemmy lost his guitar strap a couple of times but that didn't slow them or the crowd down. Good show!!

Oh! By the way, this is to the human loser that now has possession of my Mighty Mighty Bosstones hat, last seen at the Black Sabbath show: Gimmie! Gimmie! Gimmie! Thas' ma hat, ya bastid. I want it back!!!! 20 bucks reward, plus a special bonus gift!!!

Editor's note: Sean Moore is a recent American Gladiators *champion, one hell of a tap dancer, and believes the* WWF *is for real. Therefore, the bonus gift could vary with his mood. Link office may provide sancturary, pending upon our mood..*

FRINGE ARTS

Erosion of Comfort

by Sarah Bowles

Parallel expediency. A recent exhibit at the Clark Gallery presents two artists with mystical visions. Here the standard man versus the environment dichotomy is given full reign, with some surprisingly comforting and inspiring results.

Denis Farley's *The other edge of the parallel* examines technological advances' impact on humanity's tenuous relationship with the environment. Five imposing pieces are created with photographs that span several feet and an unusual tripod attached to the ceiling.

One massive photo, *Mitchell Island*, depicts a scene of mountains looming in the background, while alumninum-sided houses and their nursery yard trees are safely ensconced inside a neatly lined fence. In front of the pre-fab neighbourhood, mounds of dirt, a unifying assortment of earth tones adorn an asphalt covered ground, while a very nicely maintained bulldozer rests in a corner. The order maintained in the circle is defied by the presence of a disc, either a reflecting mirror or a photo button, which rests over a rusted cable wire. A piece of finished lumber, graying and covered by chicken wire is obscured by scattered dirt, strewn with shredded wood, a ring, and objects resembling arrowheads. The entire area is faintly grazed by the sun.

This juxtaposition articulates the growing recognition of humanity's encroachment on the environment, in addition to highlighting concerns in regard to the extent to which we can push the enviornment and still enjoy the same standard of living we enjoy today. Our desire for dominance is short lived, something that we build fences around to protect us. Eventually our false support is eroded, worn away, covered by the earth, and only occasionally recovered in the form of broken artifacts. Nothing is so enduring or endearing as dirt.

Other pieces communicate similar messages. *Rencontre Ile de Vancouver* features miniature ghost-like, macintosh-clad men standing beside massive redwood trees. Their presence isn't even noticed until the photo is examined for things other than trees.

The photos in Farley's room are centred around a ceiling tripod which points to the floor, at the tip is a convex mirror. Standing underneath you see yourself reflected in the enormous wooden floor. So despite the wonderful advancement that enabled the production of this metal wonder, there is still the need to acknowledge from which level of knowledge his advancement came. By the very nature of the arrangement one can infer the supremacy of the environment as something that surrounds and defines our advances, even when we believe we have outgrown the so-called primitive power of nature. The ceiling is also painted with a Clayquot Sound logo.

Louise Gagnon presents about 20 multi-media pieces. A small piece of paper presents a deceptively simple picture of brown ground and a sea green sky, with three roads running up a hill,. labelled sequentially, *futur, présent, passé*.. This could be taken to indicate that concepts of time are equal in relation to the lives lived within them, that the knowledge gained from past insight should be weighed equally in regard to the future effects of action. Interestingly, there is no action in this piece.

This is the only a possible interpretation, for there are also two unconnected roadways after the future, whose meaning remains uncertain.

In general, Gagnon's work is confusing; very attractive, colourful, original, and confusing. Another piece is composed of a thick block of wood, on the side of which a grey-green hand is drawn, with 17 nails which form a circle. It could have something to do with personal crucifixion, or a way of reinterpreting the manner in which we assign meaning to those little lines in our hands, saying that our life paths our predetermined by an encoded consciousness.

Another piece is painted a kindly vulval red, a convenient slit at the centre. Body parts figure prominently, suggesting the self as an environment requiring exploration. A small man encrusted with dust is tied loosely with wire, his limbs casual, enjoying his bondage.

The most visually impressive piece, a oil painting with layered paper shows a green globe spanned by two figures, male and female, their bodies united, facing outward to a peach background.

Find your own meaning.

Denis Farley and Louise Gagnon exhibit at the Clark Gallery, 1591 Clark, from February 10 to March 6. The gallery is open Thursday to Sunday, noon until six.

FENCED-UP FRUSTRATIONS

by Ingrid Hein

Passion screams through the chain fence of an industrial structure as two male dancers express their inner chaos and desire in movement, searching for peace through one another.

These are the prominent themes of **Bagne,** the sense of imprisonement, anger and the search for tenderness among the harshness.

Bagne, with its industrial motif, is the product of a collaborative effort between **Jeff Hall**, a graduate of Concordia's contemporary dance department and **Pierre-Paul Savoie**, a former student of modern dance at Con U.

It is the nature of the performer's movements which express their desperation. They lurch, their bodies pace to and fro on the stage, as though they were caged animals.

With a well-defined, yet lank body, Hall's flippant rhythmic tantrums and stares, express his hunger for companionship and emotions in a way that words never could. His use of body movement while grappling for comfort, defies all language barriers.

A moment of comfort amidst the frustration of prison

A rusty-colored structure of chainlink fence and metal bars surround Hall and Savoie, resembling a prison-like schoolyard. Adding a raw texture to the emotion-driven dance, the structure resembles an acrobat's rig, devoid of props which would prove distracting to the audience.

The sounds of thrushing bullfrogs, gushing water and heart-beat percussions emanate from the overhead speakers, mimicking the mood of the dance. Additional rhythm comes from Hall's tantrums as he beats his feet against the chains in fits of insomnia, finally soothing himself with a harmonica, as he perches himself on a metal beam above his cot. Then he seeks companionship from his "cell-mate."

When the dancers become restless, they fight as acrobats, swinging one another fiercely against the encasing fence, until they end the brawl peering through the fence to the "outside," comforting one another in gentle, subtle caresses.

The industrial motif of the dance suggests not only the frustration of a prison-like environment, but also parallels the problems of finding spirituality in an urban atmosphere where softness and tenderness are not valued, as individuals become isolated.

Overall, the piece is well choreographed and performed, but some parts are over-done and tiresome in their repetitiveness. For example, the use of the fence at the beginning of the performance goes on too long, the dancer's peering through it with desperate stares and attempts to crawl up it, eventually becoming redundant.

***Bagne** will be performed at Théâtre du Maurier du Monument National, 1182 boul. Saint-Lauent, student admission, -$13., Info. 871-2224.*

Moist Mediocrity

by Derek Lebrero

10:30 was considered a late start; we were supposed to arrive at Jailhouse at about 9:00. But since our names weren't on the the guest list, we weren't expected in the first place. This, of course, occurred after a lengthy and persistent hassle with the coat check boy. (I refused to pay the coat check, not wanting to lose money on the evening.)

And, all of this happened after attempting, with no luck, to find someone to replace me on this assignment.

Babelfish played first. Fortunately, I arrived rather late hearing only a couple of their tunes. I would tell you how they were, but they left no lasting impression on me whatsoever. It actually took a few minutes for me to realize that Babelfish had finished their set, and that the house DJ was playing CD's.

After a brief walk to buy Hershey's with almonds at a not-so-corner corner-store, it was time for **Moist**.

Moist was the whole purpose for this outing. After being bombarded with a tape, video, photo, and tens of pages of press material, we decided to cover the show.

Moist played with energy—to an unenergized crowd. They continuously smiled—to an unhappy crowd. They played the same old stuff—to a slowly dissipating crowd.

They call their sound 'Post-Grunge-Power-Pop'. I call it 'we're Canada's version of Blind Melon, Yawn!!'

The five member band led by vocalist **Dave Usher** is consistent in its approach to provide nothing new in sound.

Skip-to-the-loo drum beat backs strumming guitar in tragic 'barely missed the top 40's manner.

Being the '90s, heavy bands are subduing their sound while wimpy groups are trying to 'punk it up.' Moist fits perfectly within this formula. Riding the wave from Puget Sound, Moist is pushing the envelope on an already inundated market of **Sub-Pop, Cruz Records** style sound. Their inoffensive song *Push* is currently on rotation at Much Music while their indy cassette is making top 10 status across the country.

When Dave Usher has his mock seizures on stage, the viewer gets the feeling that he's trying too hard to be himself. Also, Dave's sexual touchings on guitarist **Mark Makoway** get tiresome after time.

The sound can be easily classified, while their marketing attempts are commendable. (The band offers a newsletter, customized condoms, and boxer shorts.)

Moist could easily find a place within the Canadian music scene, however they don't deserve it.

Laverne: They're Going to Make it After All

by Douglas Scott

Montreal has long been dogged by the seeming absence of a local underground music scene. As little as two years ago, bands seemed to rear their heads as quickly as they got them cut off by lack of local support. Even the **Doughboys** poohpoohed the lack of local activity from their major-label ivory tower. A lot has changed as the new crop of energized bands seem to have avoided decapitation at the hands of an unsupportive public. Local bands **Tinker, Stellar Dwellar** and **Gilgamesh** recently blew the doors off the Purple Haze and have the who's who of the Plateau dropping their names.

Laverne seem poised to make some waves of their own. Surprising many with their performance in the opening slot with **Rocket From The Crypt** and **Clawhammer** last May at Backstreet, what appeared to be a promising new band was threatened in September when Laverne's guitarist **P.J. Kennedy** injured himself and was rendered unable to strum narry a power chord. Ready to return last January 18 at Club Soda, the band had to extend their hiatus when a concerned neighbour complained about the noise emanating from their rehearsal space in Old Montreal. The residents of this fair city are all familiar with the MUC's policy on noise, especially that which comes from an amp, so an over zealous **Paul Julius** and his bass were thown into the brig. Still, Laverne has quite a way to go to be dubbed the most dangerous band in Montreal.

Having just been together for about a year, the band has molded themselves into a cohesive unit, drawing upon the talent of all members of the band. From **Tara Slone**'s vocals to **Marc Carbonneau**'s drums, the band attempts to fuse the different influences they all bring to their brand of music. Pop culture icons as diverse a Sesame Street and Kids in the Hall fall neatly into place with Laverne's punk ethic. The result is a merry blend power-pop/punk that will turn any frown upside down.

While most of us are passively trying to get through this brutally cold winter the members of Laverne are looking to heat things up. Look for a still-to-be-named tape to arrive at your favourite record store around Easter followed by a spring tour. If you can't wait that long to sample some of Laverne's fare, then run down to Purple Haze and check them out for yourselves. Opening bands are **Local Rabbitz** and **OverProof**. That's three bands for a mere $5.00 and the doors get ripped off their hinges at 9pm.

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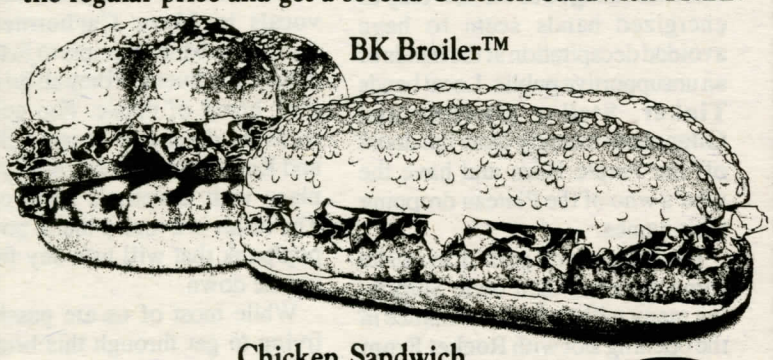

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Children of Byzantium

by Aurelia Pontes

Multiculturalism is a hot topic these days and *Cormorant* books is trying to capitalize on the trend by reissuing **Children of Byzantium**, a novel that first appeared in 1987. Eleni is only fifteen when she is betrothed to the suave Costa, a native of her Greek village who has sought his fortune in Canada. Shortly before the First World War, Costa returns to choose a wife and strikes a bargain with Eleni's father, a matter in which the prospective bride has little say. The agreement results in Eleni being shipped off—much like a package-bearing a label with her destination " Winnipeg" pinned to her cloak; Eleni, naturally, cannot speak English and must be herded onto trains with other immigrants in the same predicament.

The description of Eleni's transatlantic voyage by boat and subsequent arrival in Canada is colourful and, at times, humorous. Eleni ingenuously displays the lovely garments of her trousseau to her cabin mates and quite predictably finds her trunk missing the next morning.

She is mystified by her new Canadian landscape. Her fiancé explains that houses in Winnipeg are made of wood. "The larger houses, mansions owned by the wealthiest people in the city he told her, were made of something else called brick. She couldn't understand why rich people who could build any kind of houses they wanted made them drab brown or murky red."

Eleni's disappointment with her new life extends to her relationship with Costa, who is absorbed by his business as a grocer and has little time or patience for his wife's culture shock. The adjustment is aided immeasurably by her sister-in-law, Matina. One has to admire Matina's gumption and marital finesse in financially and culturally constrained circumstances. She quietly teaches herself English by reading the newspaper, while Eleni deprives herself of knowledge in obedience to Costa's wishes. Matina boldly becomes gainfully employed as a tearoom fortune-teller during the Depression of the 1930's. Her resourcefulness is contrasted with Eleni's guileless passivity. Matina is obliged to explain that babies are not, as Costa says, "a gift from God." She mercifully arranges the termination of an unwanted pregnancy for the tragically naive Eleni. These machinations are, of necessity, kept secret from husbands, who would take a rather dim view of the proceedings.

For those who wish to employ it to such ends, secrecy becomes a useful tool in skirting oppressive circumstances. Eleni prefers to limit the subterfuge in her marriage, but one wonders if seeking moral high-ground pays off. Her initial naivete might be ascribed to her youth, yet she becomes complicit in her limited existences as , over the years, she retains this infuriating artlessness. Eleni wants to be a good wife for Costa, a role which requires submission and obedience. Secrecy exacts a costly price from Eleni: The exercise of her independent will plagues her conscience.

Eleni and Matina operate much like adolescents planning escapades that their parents will certainly disapprove of. Alexander excels at depicting the private space, usually afternoon kitchens while husbands are at work, where these women really conduct their lives. Yet secrecy also prevents these families from achieving intimacy. Both Matina and Eleni feel betrayed when they discover secrets their husbands have kept from them.

The rift between genders which Alexander depicts in her novel are now commonplace in the feminist cannon. However, this lack of understanding is deepened by the status of these women as cultural minorities.

One wishes the author had examined these issues more profoundly instead of providing mere glimpses of rituals and customs. Instead, she skims the surface and limits the reader's engagement with Eleni, making **Children of Byzantium** a rather unsubstantial novel.

What is happening to poetry today?

by Ingrid Hein

Poetry in ancient Greek civilizations was the only form of media. During the beat generation poetry was hip happening and right on. But what is happening to poetry today?

"**Word-music to drink to**" was the title of a poetry reading last week at the Madhatter, a bar on Metcalfe below Maisonneuve. A group called **ONOMATOPOEA Sounds of the World** put together the production with the intention of bringing poetry to revival in a hip way, without being too academic about it. They wanted people to be able to drink and listen to sound-in-words, much like listening to music but with a different—more attentive—open ear.

The headliner of the evening was Anne Carson, a classics professor at McGill whose most recent publication **Short Talks** was published in **Best Essays of 1992**. She read from her work **The Book of Isaiah**, a tale about being a prophet. Other readers included Deborah Frankel with her chicken story, Jonathan Furze on high school dates, and Sean Gurd on cosmic sex and consonants. There were eleven readers in all.

The event became a clash of student culture; people in the adjoining room were on a pub crawl and whooping it up, screaming and smashing glasses together. Meanwhile, the poets read, and the audience listened and the sounds from the pub crawl meshed with the word music and it became a sort-of entertainment quarrel with no winner to be declared.

There seemed to be two sets of people in the place. Group one: sipping beer and visualizing words and feeling rhythms from words, hearing crafted stories and associating words. Group two: trying to escape the rigours of academia, and getting bombarded with it.

And so the night continued. The sounds rose and fell, people from group two filtered into the poetry room, and some stayed. From group one, some left after hearing their friends read, and others drank more beer and listened.

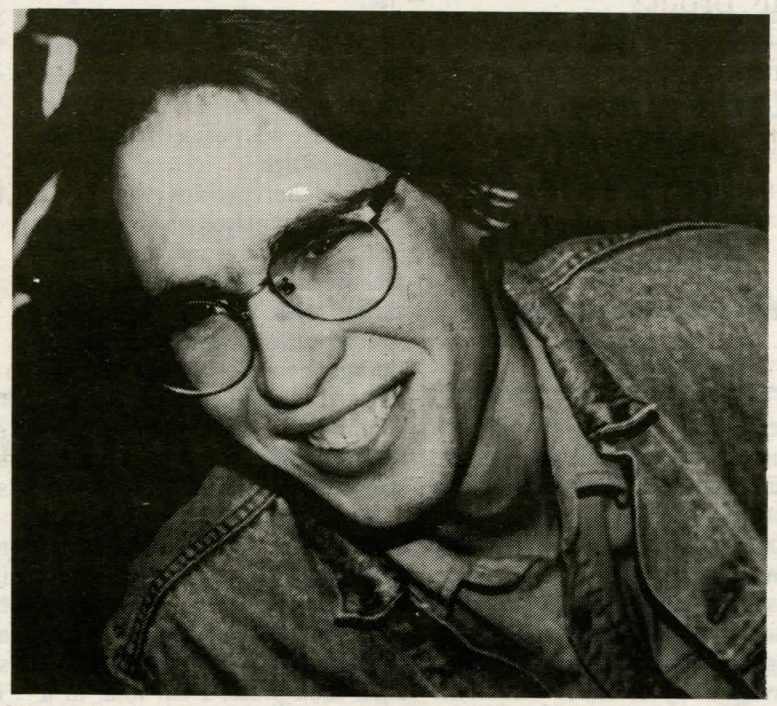

photo by Wynne Keing

Sean Gurd wants to talk to you about cosmic sex and consonants.

To say the evening was a success would require some explaining. To say it was a failure would be utterly wrong but it was a clear example of the fact that poetry still lives in the underground scene.

"Poetry is dead, Neitzche might have said, " but Sean Gurd, one of the organizers of the event, said that it just requires a different idiom.

"We don't want anything too conservative or stuck-up, that's what the relaxed atmosphere is all about. It's meant to be nightclub poetry, which is basically word-music. It can be anything from reading to rapping, but the emphasis is on the words."

Gurd hopes that poetry will become popular once more, he is on the search for the right idiom, people and beer.

Watch for flyers distributed by ONOMATOPOEA, the readings are not held in any consistent venue at the moment.

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Former SGW student returns to 1969 computer riot

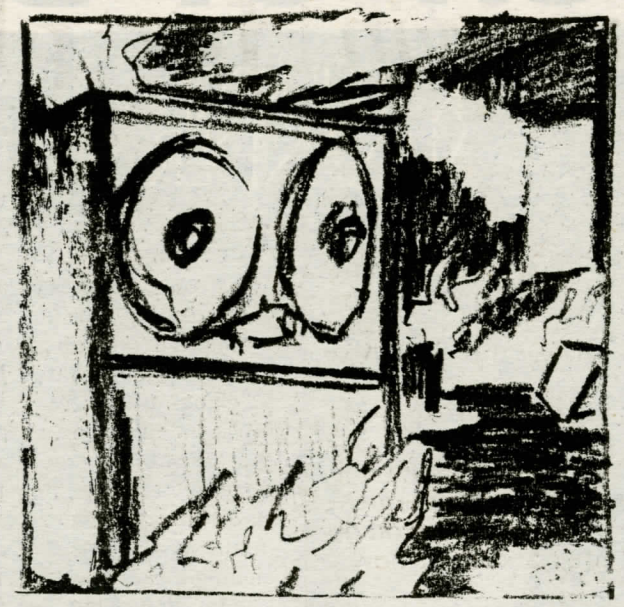
by Alfie Roberts

February 11, 1994 will have been to the day the 25th Anniversary of the inconclusive end of Concordia University's Sir George Williams Campus Black student initiated charge of incompetence and racism against one Professor Perry Anderson, and its complementary Computer Center Affair.

Coincidingly, the date is one in a week of a month originally designated Black History Week in 1926 by the late Black American scholar Carter G. Woodson, the week was later extended to all of February, in 1976, the 200th Anniversary year of America's bourgeois revolution, 1776-1783.

This February 11th date is one of the great historic dates pertaining to Black people in Montreal, in Quebec, and the rest of Canada, and about which more holding forth on, ought to be undertaken.

Following a two-week Occupation of the then Sir George Williams University Computer Centre toward January's end, 1969, the Occupation— initiated by Black students and supported by white ones resulting from an impasse in resolving the charges aforementioned— this demonstration-of-purpose action in keeping with the times, was interrupted a cold Tuesday February when the University's Administration summoned Montreal's police to its assistance in the wee hours of that morning. The police were therefore called on to hallowed educational and intellectual precincts to resolve by force matters internal to the University which when challenged to put to the test the communication, negotiating, and democratic principles it was imparting to students, was not up to that test. Hence, true to form, all the University's liberal democratic, sociological, anthropological, management of human behaviour courses, and humanitarian posturings were found wanting, with force finally being relied upon.



Eighty-seven students,42 of whom were Black, the rest white, were arrested that February 11, and eventually charged with trespassing on the property of the University. Two of the Black participants were to end up maliciously sent to prison.

The Occupation of the Computer Centre in January 1969 followed on initial April 1968 charges by four Black students and one Chinese student. Some results of the whole affair were that the University lost its principal; the Computer Centre went up in the some, its machines discommoded following the police intervention. The Tuesday Feb. 11 happening, also evoked public utterances of an ever rising virulent racist variety by many white people looking on at the police-surrounded Hall Building. As well, the happening elicited one of the greatest manifestations of Black solidarity, financial giving and pledging by many of Montreal's Black population, whose actions were characterized by an unspoken but purposeful defiance as if each realized and understood that a certain history was in the making. This Black response spoke volumes, louder than any words. And a certain history it was too, as the day's event announced loud and clear, that black people were not only to be found below the tracks in Montreal, but across the city as well. Further, the historical happening was the Black complement to the so-called on-going Quebec Quiet Revolution, and an effervescent labour union and student movement then militantly impacting on Quebec's evolving society.

Moreover, this domestic Black solidarity demonstration spilled over into the international arena, particularly in the English-speaking Caribbean where support was offered by University students in Trinidad and Tobago, Black forum groups and others

Finally, some of the rules and regulations which now stipulate how Concordia University ought to live and be governed stem from the "happening" of Feb. 11, 1969, and sufficient also to indicate that many of the Black students caught up in the Occupation went on to become medical doctors, lawyers, etc.; with Ann Cools later to become Canada's first woman senator at federal level, and Rosie Douglas to become the leasder of the opposition Dominica Labour Party. Black people can, therefore, call upon another historic milestone which further legitimizes the relevance of Black History Month to Quebec and the Federation of Canada as a whole. Greetings particularly to all living Black participants wherever they now are, to those since dead like Cora-Lee Hutchinson of the Bahamas, as well to supportive others in that vibrant period like Irene Kon and the late lawyer Bernard Mergler.

Amandla Ngawethu.

Alfie Roberts was a student at Sir George Williams University during the 1969 computer riot.

An open letter to the rector:

"The healing process must begin"

by Robert Douglas

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Concordia University's Sir George Williams Affair, I feel it is opportune to call on the collective conscience of the Concordia community and administration to begin the healing process.

It must not be forgotten that the origin of universities was in Africa, particularly going back to the Saqqara Pyramid Complex, which housed one of the first universities in Africa. It produced one of the world's first patrons of medicine, in the person of Imhotep. There were also early university developments in Morocco, Egypt, West Africa and the university of Timbuktu.

All the early knowledge and learning that originated in Africa was therefore taken out by the Persians, Greeks and Romans. Then the Muslims translated this knowledge from Greek into Arabic, and carried it across North Africa, into Spain. Popular was the saying that "Africa stopped at the Pyrenees". These African, Arab and Jewish influences in the forms of universities, libraries, institutes of translation and other such institutions eventually spilled over into Europe. These were to be copied by Europeans and soon institutions like Ballliol College of Oxford in 1263, and Christ College Cambridge, 1326, were founded. In Italy you had the University of Naples in 1224, then the University of the Sorbonne in France in 1250; the University of Bologna in Italy, the University of Salamanca in Spain, 1218. Learning had reached a certain level in Europe, and was now appropriated to be utilized as a base for the Renaissance, and in time to be articulated as issuing solely and full blown from the heads of Europeans. In the 15th century, this learning, instead of being put at the disposal of the later peoples of Asia, Africa, Caribbean and Latin America, and towards their best "development", was instead utilized to oppress and suppress these majority Black and non-white countries. The paradox was that these regions, Africa in the lead, from which learning had originated were now to be called "savages" by so-called "learned" Europeans.

> *Universities were conceived as places where fairplay, justice, decency and democracy would prevail.*

Canada was to get its first university institution, King's College in Nova Scotia, between 1790 and 1802, followed by the University of Toronto in 1827 and McGill in 1829. (Sir George Williams University was founded in 1926, later to become Concordia in 1974.) But no such institutions were to be established in the rest of South, West, East Africa and the English-speaking Caribbean. Colonial students in the English-speaking Caribbean were forced to travel abroad to attain higher education in institutions such as the University of Toronto, McGill and Sir George, now Concordia.

There were ideals and myths built up in the colonies about universities, to the effect that these were great centres of learning where knowledge was pursued for the sake of knowledge.

These universities were also conceived as places where fairplay, justice, decency and democratic practices would prevail. These ideals and myths were, however, shattered towards the end of 1968 at Sir George, now Concordia, and culminated in charges of racism and incompetence laid against a professor by four Black and one Chinese science students.

A course in physiology was then an essential course en route to medicine, and one in which seemingly a pattern was developing where Black students could get no higher than a "C". A similar situation took place, I am told, in a course dealing with political parties given by a professor in the Political Science Department.

Charges similar to the ones levelled in 1968 could have been made by many Black students who instead chose to keep their silence and just graduate. But just as a revolution does not occur until a certain set of circumstances are in place, these can be said to have been in place in 1969. Some influences were the onset of Quebec's "quiet revolution" partially influenced by the African independence movements including those in Algeria, Ghana, Guinea; the Cuban Revolution in the Caribbean, the Civil and Human Rights Movement in the United States, and the resistance of the Vietnamese people against the American intervention Union and student movements were out in the streets en masse.

> *Concordia has an opportunity to develop and play a pioneering role in many spheres of educational endeavor.*

Against this backdrop in the latter half of the 20th century looking into the 21st century, Concordia has a great opportunity to develop and play a pioneering role in many spheres of educational endeavor. There is no reason why Concordia and Mcgill cannot accommodate Black Studies programmes given the role that Black people have played not only in the history of these universities but also the country.

There should, therefore, be an opportunity for students to pursue a major or minor in Black Studies;. the details of such a programme cannot be dealt with in this open letter, but can be the subject of future discussions and implementation,. current courses on Africa and the Caribbean notwithstanding.

Secondly, Concordia can pioneer in facilitating members of the Black community to monitor courses at the university, especially in their particular spheres of community work, and more.

Thirdly, Concordia can assist in the further development of education and other such areas of study in the Caribbean. That role, however, must be dignified educational, liberating and development enhancing.

Rosie Douglas, a Concordia Alumni, now a parliamentarian in the legislature of Dominica, leader of the Dominican Labour Party, hails from a Dominica that can accommodate some of the aforementioned Institutes, including those having to do with environmental issues and problems that the university can also get involved with given the expertise it may be developing in that area.

Rosie Douglas is poised to write the Quebec Government to waive the foreign student fees that students from Dominica, currently pay.

We hope that the university officials will be open and ready to meet with officials from Dominica, including Rosie Douglas.

Tiyana Ipyana Behanzin.

Robert Douglas is a Concordia Alumni and former CUSA co-president.

Stinger women coast to easy win

by Frank Ivancic

After coming off a weekend where the Concordia women's hockey team won the Theresa Humes tournament for the second consecutive year, head coach Les Lawton wasn't surprised by his team's uninspired 2-0 win over the St. Laurent Patriotes Friday night.

"We didn't really play that well....I was sort of expecting a bit of a let-down after our weekend," he said.

"It's tough to keep that momentum going....It's a tough time of year for people. Just coming off a big tournament win, we're in exams. There's twice in a year when you go through this: the middle of November and right now," Lawton said.

The Stingers outshot their opponents 27 to 10 but the turning point of the first period was a key play by Concordia netminder, Marie-Claude Roy. Halfway through the scoreless frame, the Patriotes rushed into the Stingers' zone. A perfect cross-ice pass found a wide open Caroline Proulx but her goal was taken away by Roy, who slid across her crease to stack the pads and turn the puck away.

Concordia broke the deadlock in the second period when Martine Berubé deflected a point shot on the power play to make it 1-0. Nancy Deschamps made it a two-goal lead collecting a Lisa Jordan pass and firing the puck over the glove of Pats goalie Liane Mayer.

The Stingers beat the UQTR Patriotes in Trois-Rivieres on Sunday 7-4. Goalscorers were: Ginnie Brule with two goals, Tracey Robinson, Lisa Jordan, Nancy Deschamps, Laurie Cartman and Anne Rodrigue.

Hockey:

Stingers men gunning for playoff berth

by Frank Ivancic

Put your ear on the rails and you'll hear it coming: the Stinger Express.

And right on time.

After travelling through the first 22 games of the season with more highs and lows than a trip through the Rockies, coach Yves Beaucage's Stingers have their tickets to ride as they've reeled off wins in nine of their last 13 games, including a stretch of four in a row. The fourth was last Tuesday's 6-3 win over the McGill Redmen at the Montreal Forum in the 7th Annual Royal Challenge.

Destination: the playoffs.

"The key thing, though, is to get to the playoffs on a winning streak," Beaucage said after Tuesday's game. "What I'm looking for is this: to finish second, at best, I can't afford losing one game. To finish first, I've got to sweep (the last three games) and hope that Trois Rivieres (UQTR) loses one more game. If that happens we'll finish first, ahead of Trois Rivieres by one point.

"I've been doing the calculations the last couple of days," he added with a grin.

Beaucage had reason to smile.

Not only has his team all but clinched the final playoff spot with last week's victory, it was the way they won the game that was pleasing.

What's a team to do when it dictates the play but finds itself trailing 2-1 with little more than two minutes to play in the first period? If you're the Stingers you don't get mad, you get even—and then you go ahead on the scoreboard.

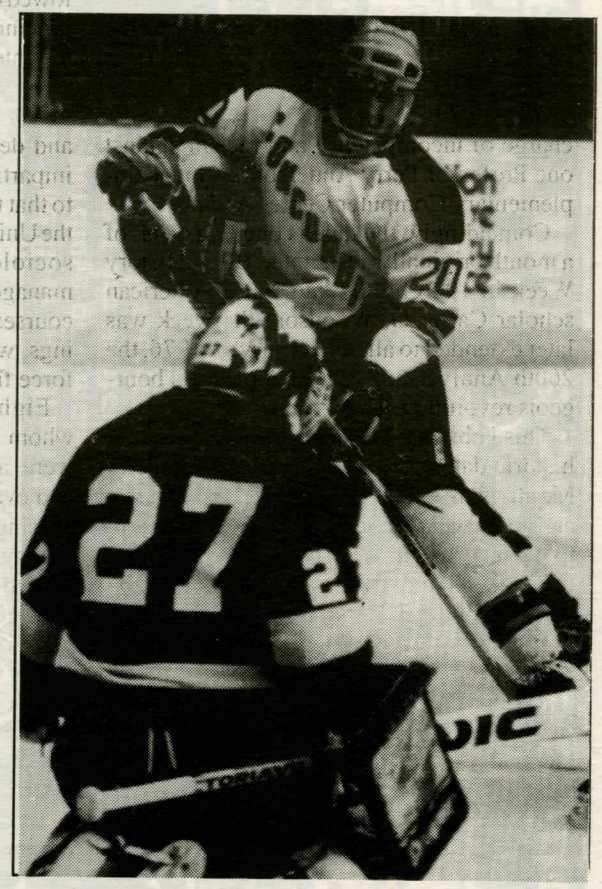
That's what Martin Balleux and team captain Derek Potts did to erase the lead that Redmen Ivan Murray and Chris Varga had built up for McGill. Daniel Picard had Concordia's other goal in the period.

Potts picked up the puck along the boards and stickhandled his way to the net. A couple more fancy moves had McGill netminder Patrick Jeanson at Potts' mercy and the Stingers defence ended the goalie's misery with a quick backhander up high.

"League MVP,." Beaucage said of Potts. "Derek doesn't have to stand and talk and talk, he leads by example. He comes to play every single night."

After Concordia's Martin Balleux and McGill's Guy Boucher exchanged second period power-play goals, Stinger Andrew Chelbus put the game out of reach in the third period with a breakaway goal. Dan Mizrahi added an empty netter to complete the scoring.

"It's a big lift for us. We are five points ahead of McGill now and we're going for first place. We're pretty confident we can beat anybody," Stinger forward Bill Lees said after the game. "Just everybody is coming together right from the goaltender out."



Stingers' leading scorer this season Martin Balleux squeezed two past Redmen goalie Tuesday.

photo by Phil Carpenter

Strong weekend outing for men's basketball team

by Marie-Chantal Côté

The men's basketball team held onto its second-place rank in national standings, defeating the McGill Redmen on Friday and the Bishop's Gaiters 91-70 on Sunday afternoon in Lennoxville.

The Stingers maintained their 8-0 record with an 83-78 victory over the cross town-rival McGill Redmen Friday night at Loyola Gym.

The Stingers started off slowly but thundered back with strong offence after Maxime Bouchard's four consecutive points four minutes into the game.

"I think in the beginning we underestimated them a little bit. We thought we could just come in and walk all over them since our practices were really intense all week. But that's not what happened," said guard Stephen Thomas.

Through the first half, Concordia outplayed McGill on the offensive boards,,with Fred Arsenault contributing 12 points to a 46-27 lead at halftime.

In the second half, McGill's improved defence blanked the Stingers for the first four minutes.

"We just didn't start well. We didn't play well the whole second half, we didn't play smart," said Concordia head coach John Dore. "I think that part of it is that we're a very young team and we're working towards playing 40 minutes, and right now we're not doing that. We're only playing 20 or 25 minutes."

Redman Rick Varisco's 29 points in the second half helped reduce McGill's deficit. With 34 seconds left in the game, the Redmen scored six points, but it was not enough to break Concordia's lead, and the Stingers scored another two points to end the game 83-78.

"I think we were a little tired. It was a mental lapse on our part. We lost concentration," said Thomas, who scored 10 points for the Stingers, including two three-pointers. "We were up a lot. It happens when you play a team three times. You can't always maintain that intensity you'd like to have."

The Stingers' leading scorers were Arsenault with 20 points and Jean-Pierre Reimer with 12.

The Stingers' next game is against the Laval Rouge et Or on Friday, Feb. 18 at 8:30 p.m. in Ste.-Foy.

Women's basketball team downs McGill and Bishop's

by Danny Chan

Back-to-back wins over the McGill Martlets and the Bishop's Lady Gaiters last weekend improved the women's basketball team's league record to 5-4.

Sabrina Gaspari's four three-pointers buttressed the Stingers' attack in a 59-44 triumph over the McGill Martlets. It marked Concordia's first win over McGill in three league games this season and only their second victory in five Stingers-Martlets confrontations overall..

The Martlets were without forward Vicky Tessier, who suffered a season-ending injury in a game against Bishop's last weekend.

"We felt we would win this game no matter who was playing," said Stingers head coach Mike Hickey. "We had a job to do and we beat the McGill team."

Concordia was shut out in the first four minutes of the contest. But the Stingers chipped away at McGill's 8-0 advantage until Gaspari's breakaway lay-up 10 minutes into the game gave Concordia a lead they did not relinquish for the remainder of the half.

With play stopped with one second left in the first half and the Martlets trailing by three, McGill scored what appeared to be a game-tying three-pointer. But Concordia protested, claiming a foot was inside the three-point line. The officials agreed it was a two-pointer, giving the Stingers a 28-27 lead after 20 minutes.

The game was close for much of the second half but the Martlets scored just four points in the last six minutes.

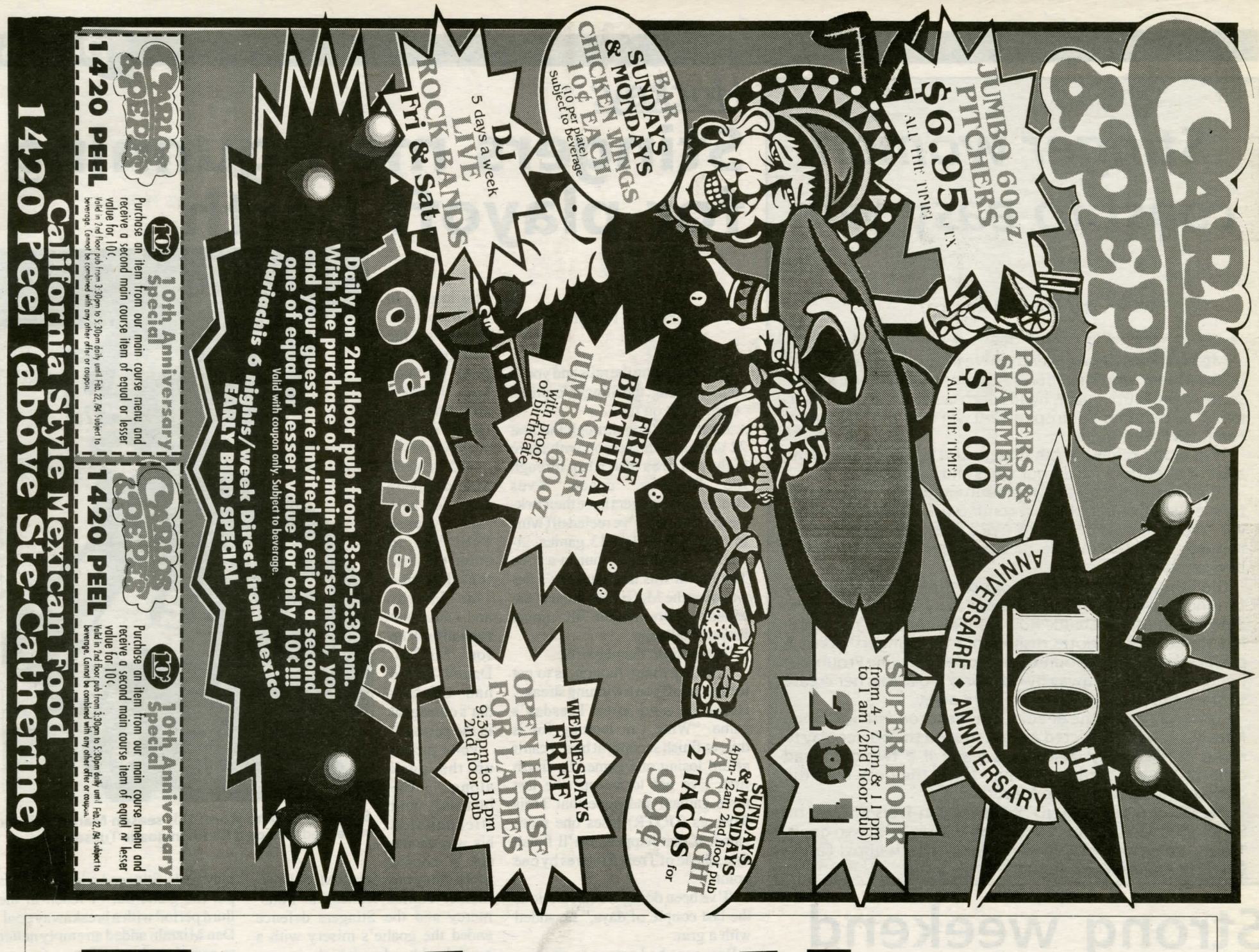
"(Forward Vicky) Tessier's been known to take the game over when it's tough in the second half," said McGill head coach Chris Hunter. "Our problem is that we scored 44 points and that's not going to beat anybody."

The Martlets ran into foul trouble with Concordia leading 50-44 late in the game. Guard Tanya Guitman sank five free throws, guard Sharon Sandy sank two and forward Patricia Demers went 2-for-2 from the line in the last 47 seconds for the 59-44 final.

The game marked the return of Isabelle Bernier, who missed the last three games due to an injury suffered on Jan. 14 against Laval.

"She played remarkably well," said Hickey. Gaspari and Demers each had 14 points for the Stingers and Sandy and Guitman also reached double digits. Forward Anne Gildenbuys' 11 points led McGill.

The Stingers' next game is against the Laval Rouge et Or on Saturday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in Ste.-Foy.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